**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday July 23, 2024**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

**5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356**

**1. Call to Order** at 7:14 p.m. by TNC President Len Shaffer, **Roll Call:** 2nd Vice President Jeff Mausner took role call for 1st Vice President Eran Heissler, who was absent. **Quorum reached with 14 board members**. **Present** were: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler 1st VP, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez.

**2. Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**David Brice, West Valley Area Representative for the Mayor’s Office**, introduced intern Jessica Padilla who shared the Homeless Count update:

* There is a 10.4% decline in downtown Los Angeles and 2.2% citywide. She gave various reasons for this due to Mayor Bass’s efforts.
* The Sepulveda Basin Rec. Arena will be the site for BMX Freestyle & Racing, Skateboarding and Archery in the 2028 Olympics. This is the first time Olympic events will be held in the Valley; the last time the Olympics were held in L.A., there were no events in the Valley.
* The cooling centers in the Valley are there to help people in the heat. She recommended everyone share these resources.
* Summer Night Life activities continue into August.
* She talked about the role 311 plays to help residents request City Services.

There were questions about the stealing of copper wire. David said this is being done by organized crime and gang members. He elaborated on programs and services to help get people off the street. He also responded to questions about vacancies on LAPD. He said that vacancies on LAPD, LAFD and street services are being filled but there is a challenge in finding people to fill these positions. He also responded to complaints about reporting illegal fireworks and the need for more people to staff the non-emergency phone number.

**Safi Lodin, Senior Field Deputy and Public Safety Deputy with Councilmember Blumenfield’s office** gave updates on Municipal Code 4118 “prohibits sitting or sleeping in the public right of way,” and 5611 “having items in the public right of way.” He talked about the conditions under which they can implement these codes. He also spoke about wire stripping and copper wire theft which has been going on for several years. Since convincing LADWP to install solar lighting, the situation has improved. He can get these systems in certain areas if requested. Regarding LAPD, they got a new contract last year for $996 MM. New recruits are getting $86K and other officers are getting raises. There are new streetlights on Tampa which have been a long time coming. Plans are for 3,000 new bus shelters with real-time information screens. The first one is at Reseda and Victory. The Councilmember is looking at non-emergency, unarmed responders to staff a pilot program. It hasn’t happened yet at the Devonshire Station but Devonshire is on the list. Board members asked about cleaning up a weed issue at Corbin and Wells and also how information might be gathered by the virtual systems at the bus shelters to access people’s cell phones. Safi invited everyone to the local National Night Out events.

**Joel Gonzalez, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment:** Rollover funds for 2024 – 2025 will be broadened to include whatever is left in the budget, as opposed to $10K in unspent funds. The City Clerk is kicking off a Vote by Mail process for all NC elections. August 3, 2024 is the cutoff for the Code of Conduct trainings. The new EmpowerLA General Manager will be at LAANC’s August meeting. She was previously at VANC and BONC.

**Public Comment: Sharon Brewer** called the new bus shelter “ridiculous” and said the seating is very small and the seats are barely 6” apart. She doesn’t think it is ADA compliant and said the sun would be directly shining on people in the late afternoon. On the rollover of money, she said that was decided by the City Council. This info was available to the public before the budget was approved but there wasn’t a lot of information shared with the individual NCs.

3. **Public Comments:** Varant Majarian spoke about the efforts of the new Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf manager in dealing with homeless sleeping on the premises and asked everyone to thank Gabby.

**4.** **Budget Advocate/Representative Report** – No report.

**5. Executive Secretary’s Report** – As Leon Gonzalez missed 6 meetings within the twelve months, Iris confirmed that he was being removed from the board. On another note, everyone is in compliance with the trainings.

**6.** **Approval of minutes of the June 25, 2024 meeting:** (Wieder/MacIntosh) moved approval of the June 25, 2024 board meeting minutes as revised. **The motion passed unanimously: 14-0-0.**

**Voting aye were**: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez**. Opposed:** None. **Abstentions**: None.

**7. Committee and other Reports**:

**Budget** – August 21, 2024 is the next Budget Committee meeting. Harvey has prepared a report on the status of community projects. Since its inception in 2001, TNC has spent $454 K on community projects.

**Land Use** – No report.

**Outreach** – Terry reported that August 6, 2024 is National Night Out. Reach out to Esther to volunteer for this.

**Events** – No report.

**Transportation** – Susan Rogen said they are still working on signage for the 101 N ramps. They are working on a roundabout for Reseda which recently had a bad accident by Rosita.

**Public Safety** – Terry reported a situation with a stakeholder whose daughter was chased by someone. Susan recommended WhatsApp for keeping in touch with neighbors.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff is working with the Council Office to ban dog meat in Vietnam through a sister city relationship. Things are very bad at the city shelters – they need more money.

**Beautification** – No report. Iris added that Trader Joe’s is going into the old Whole Foods site.

**Homelessness** – Susan Lord attended a meeting near the Tiny Homes where area neighbors complained about crime and drug dealing by residents of the Tiny Homes. She said they were very hostile to the councilmember. Iris said Canis, the dog training business, showed videos of drug dealing at the tiny homes. LAPD addressed some of the complaints saying they would look at the police reports to make sure there is more police presence there.

**DWP MOU Report** – Len asked for volunteers to serve in this position. Terry said she could go.

**VANC Report** – Len said the new GM stayed to answer questions and talk with people. She is going to hold a meeting for the presidents and vice presidents to find out what is going on.

**LAANCC Report** – There was a lot of gripping at that meeting and not a lot was done.

**NCSA Liaison** – Terry said they are working to educate councilmembers on the dangers of artificial turf in preparation for the Council File.

**Ad Hoc VNY** – No report.

**8.** **Approval of MER & Financial Statement**: (Goldberg/Lord) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation and approves the June 2024 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of June 30, 2024.”

**The motion passed unanimously: 14-0-0. Voting aye were**: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez**. Opposed:** None. **Abstentions**: None.

**9.** **Land Use Motion**: **18831 Topham Ave. – ZA-2024-2557-ZV:** (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved,

“Resolved: TNC Board adopts the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to approve a zone

variance to allow for a 15-bed assisted living facility providing Alzheimer’s and Dementia care with

13 guest rooms pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 13B.5.3.”

(Shaffer/Polonsky) moved to amend the motion to:

“Resolved: TNC Board adopts the Land Use Committee's recommendation to approve a zone

variance to allow for a 15-bed assisted living facility providing Alzheimer's and Dementia care with

13 guest rooms pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 13B.5.3 with the following

conditions:

1. That this Senior Care Facility with 13 bedrooms be restricted to a maximum of 15

residents with Alzheimer's/Dementia of with the 15 can include 2 couples;

2. That hospice care be offered for current residents only'

3. That no trash pick-up or deliveries occur between the hours of 7 p,m, and 8 a.m.

weekdays and 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends;

4. That the area on the east side of the front yard setback be designated for emergency vehicles only;

5. That the facility management will encourage both visiting family members and staff to use public transportation.”

**The motion passed unanimously: 14-0-0. Voting aye were**: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez**. Opposed:** None. **Abstentions**: None.

The amended motion was then moved by (Shaffer/Polonsky) as follows:

“Resolved: TNC Board adopts the Land Use Committee's recommendation to approve a zone

variance to allow for a 15-bed assisted living facility providing Alzheimer's and Dementia care with

13 guest rooms pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 13B.5.3 with the following

conditions:

1. That this Senior Care Facility with 13 bedrooms be restricted to a maximum of 15

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weekdays and 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends;

4. That the area on the east side of the front yard setback be designated for emergency vehicles only;

5. That the facility management will encourage both visiting family members and staff to use public transportation.”

**The motion passed unanimously: 14-0-0. Voting aye were**: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez**. Opposed:** None. **Abstentions**: None.

**10.** **CIS: Artificial Turf Motion:** (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: TNC Board adopts the Land

Use Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS supporting CF 24-0602 as follows: to request the

studies regarding artificial turf/grass by the various city departments and officials as set forth in

original motion and expanded upon in the amended motion.” (Note – motion passed on a 2-1 vote).

Len explained the issues involved with artificial turf and why a study is needed. Terry said that

Councilmember Blumenfield authored this motion and it is to go before the City Council in late July

or August 2024.

**Public Comment:** Sharon Brewer noted there are questions about artificial turf and wanted to know

if there is a different between the older and newer versions. And as far as the animal shelters’

artificial turf, isn’t the heat element a negative for dogs?

**The motion carried:** 11-2-1. **Voting aye were**: Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman,

Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob

Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. **Opposed:** Jeff Mausner and Harvey Goldberg. **Absent:** Eran Heissler,

Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman and Bruno Hernandez**. Abstentions**: Paul Radenberg.

**11.** **TNC Election, June 3, 2025**: **The TNC Board approves the appointment of an Ad Hoc**

**Election Committee.** Len stated that this election will be Vote by Mail, which he said was

decided without input from the neighborhood councils. Everyone will have to send in their driver’s

license to prove their age and residency. The City Clerk runs it but TNC will do the outreach for it.

Three volunteers need to be on the Ad Hoc Election Committee, which has much less strict

restrictions on how to meet. Matthew Clark volunteered but since two others are needed to create a

committee, it was postponed until the next regular board meeting.

**12.** **Executive Committee Motion**: (Shaffer/Goldberg) moved “Resolved: The TNC Board

approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS in favor of CF 24-0771, a motion

to transfer $2,000,000 from the Unappropriated Balance Fund No. 100-58, Reserve for Mid-Year

Adjustments line item to the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department, Fund No. 100-15, Account

No. 003040 for a grants program to support non-profit community security services, including

support for non-profit religious institutions of all denominations to implement community safety

enhancements as described in the motion.” Len explained that this motion is a substitute motion to

support community security services for non-denominational religious institutions experiencing

harassment and threats.

**The motion passed unanimously: 14-0-0. Voting aye were**: Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, Christopher Ahuja, Faryl Arbeitman, Matthew Clark, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff & Esther Wieder. **Absent:** Eran Heissler, Sylvia Bedrossian, Barry Edelman & Bruno Hernandez**. Opposed:** None. **Abstentions**: None.

**13**. **Board Business**:

Ellie, a stakeholder, asked if she could serve on the Youth Seat for TNC. Len stated that to have a Youth seat, TNC would have to change the bylaws.

Len took a straw vote and everyone said they liked having refreshments at the meeting.

**14. Adjournment:** 10:04 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One